

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14003

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (DRINAN, ROBERT F.)
SUBJECT: CODEL DRINAN

REF: STATE 198688

SUMMARY: FATHER DRINAN'S INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES ON HIS PRIVATE STOPOVER WAS NOT SO MUCH IN USG TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES AS IN HUMAN RIGHTS. DURING CALL ON CHARGE AND ALSO IN MEETING WITH AMCHAM BOARD SEPTEMBER 5, DRINAN RECOUNTED HIS MEETING WITH JESUITS AND OTHER INTERESTED FILIPINOS WHO GAVE HIM LIST OF SEVEN CASES OF DETENTION (WHICH HE DID NOT SHARE WITH US). JESUITS WERE VEHEMENTLY ANTI-MARCOS, AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN UNITED STATES FOR CONDONING MARTIAL LAW, PARTICULARLY THE WORLD LAW CONFERENCE AWARD TO MARCOS THE "NATION BUILDER." DRINAN PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE A FLOOR FIGHT IN THE HOUSE ON CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES, BUT JUDGED THE PHILIPPINES MIGHT "LUCK OUT" BECAUSE OF KOREA. END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH HIS MANILA STOPOVER WAS PRIVATE, DRINAN ACCEPTED A BREADKFAST MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF DIRECTORS AND SELECTED MEMBERS, CALLED ON THE CHARGE, AND VISITED THE U.S. BUSINESS CENTER IN THE CHANCERY ON SEPTEMBER 5. HE TOLD THE U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND EMBOFFS THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SCOPE AND DEPTH OF THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES OFFERED IN
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EAST ASIA BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE. HE FAULTED BOTH DEPARTMENTS, HOWEVER FOR NOT CONVEYING A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE PICTURE OF WHAT WAS BEING DONE AND WHICH HE HAD TO DISCOVER ON A PERSONAL TOUR. HE WONDERED WHY MANILA HAD BEEN LEFT OFF OF HIS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. THE DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S. BUSINESSMEN RANGED OVER A WIDE GAMUT OF SUBJECTS -- MERITS OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS, MULTI-

NATIONALS, SECTION 911 ("MY SISTER WHO LIVES IN FRANKFURT WRITES ME ONCE A MONTH AND YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN ME"), JAPANESE COMPETITION, LACK OF INTEREST IN EXPORTS BY SMALL U.S. COMPANIES, ETC. HE LATER TOLD THE CHARGE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO TRY AND RESOLVE CURRENT PROBLEMS BY THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE AS IS ADVOCATED IN SOME QUARTERS.

2. DRINAN'S CHIEF INTEREST WAS IN HUMAN RIGHTS. BECAUSE HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION OF PHILIPPINE JESUITS IN THE UNITED STATES, HE HAS A DIRECT AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ACTIVIST CLERGY WHICH HAS OPPOSED MARCOS' PERSONAL RULE AND HANDLING OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT FIND A SINGLE FILIPINO HE MET WHO HAD A GOOD WORD TO SAY ABOUT MARCOS. HIS FRIENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE LOOKING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE BUT WERE DISAPPOINTED, THE LATEST BLOW BEING THE WORLD LAW CONFERENCE GIVING MARCOS AN AWARD AS "NATION BUILDER."

3. DRINAN SAID THE FORD ADMINISTRATION DID NOT LIVE UP TO THE LEGISLATIVE INJUNCTION AGAINST FOREIGN AID TO THOSE COUNTRIES WITH A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, IN HIS VIEW, DID NOT SATISFACTORILY RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT. THE CHARGE DESCRIBED OUR APPROACHES TO THE GOP, INCLUDING THE HERRERA CASE, AND OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT AND CONTINUING INTEREST. WE DID OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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BEST AND BELIEVE WE MADE AN IMPRESSION, BUT DRINAN APPARENTLY CATEGORIZES U.S. EFFORT AS "MINIMAL."

4. DRINAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IS BROAD GAUGHED. HE DEPLORED THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE CIVIL LIBERTIES WHICH HE SAID HAVE BEEN ABROGATED. ASKED WHAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY SHOULD BE DOING THEN, HE SAID HE WOULD WISH FOR A THIRD WORLD MARSHALL PLAN, IN THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, WITH WHICH WE COULD HELP THE POOR COUNTRIES WHILE CONCURRENTLY EXERCISING LEVERAGE TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS. DRINAN WAS PESSIMISTIC, HOWEVER, ABOUT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN AID. HE PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A FLOOR FIGHT IN THE HOUSE THIS WINTER OR NEXT SPRING ON CONTINUED ECONOMIC AID TO THE PHILIPPINES, JUDGED THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE EASIER TO PASS THAN ECONOMIC AND CONCLUDED THAT THE PHILIPPINES MIGHT "LUCK OUT" BECAUSE THE HEAT WOULD BE DEFLECTED BY MORE FLAGRANT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KOREA.

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